

WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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YEAR 1972

WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL


R E P O R T O F T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1972

G. A. Macgregor, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.S.H., F.R.S.H.H.
Medical Officer of Health

"Springfield"
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To the Chairman and Members of the Weardale Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the public health of your area for the year 1972.

Since 1962 the death rate per one thousand population in your area has exceeded the birth rate, and this year the pattern is the same; the death rate being 17.6, and the birth rate 12.5; the corresponding figures for England and Wales being 12.1 and 14.8. The principle causes of death in age groups show that diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 60% of all deaths.

There was one new case of Tuberculosis, one of Measles, and eight cases of Dysentery recorded. For several years now no cases of Poliomyelitis nor of Diphtheria, Typhoid or Para-typhoid have been recorded.

Throughout the year immunisations against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Measles continued at clinics, surgeries and in schools, with a satisfactory response. Immunisation against German Measles, commenced during 1971, was again offered to girls of 11-13 years of age, with a fairly good response. Tuberculin testing in schools followed by B.C.G. vaccination was continued among school children at 11 years of age onwards.

No cases of Undulant Fever or Brucellosis were recorded in cattle in your area during the year.

The Child Welfare Clinics at St. John's Chapel, Stanhope, and Wolsingham, have been moderately patronised.

The Chiropody Clinics operating at Wolsingham, Stanhope, St. John's Chapel, and Rookhope, are still in great demand.

In conclusion, the general state of public health is being maintained at a good level so far as your area is concerned, and I would like to thank Members and the Council staff for their cordial help and assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

G. A. MACGREGOR

Medical Officer of Health

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, Mid 1972)	7,910
Area (In acres)	99,652
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,252
Rateable Value	£390,872
Product of Penny Rate	£3,815

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	96	52	44
Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	99	53	46
	—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude rate) 12.5

General birth rate (England and Wales) 14.8

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	139	68	71

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude rate) 17.6

Death rate (England and Wales) 12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis: Nil

Other Puerperal Causes: Nil

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	20
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)	17
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	21
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	20
Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	20
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births)	20
Deaths from Cancer	24
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Infantile Death Rate Under 1 Year</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>
1967	16.24	-	13.06
1968	16.42	10.10	12.22
1969	18.90	25.00	15.30
1970	17.20	11.00	11.80
1971	15.70	20.00	12.50
1972	17.60	20.00	12.50

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1972

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under Four Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year		Age in Years										
				1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & Over				
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, Etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
B19(10) Leukaemia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
B23 Anaemias	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(4) Multiple Sclerosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	1
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	2
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	7
	F	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	19
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B32 Pneumonia	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total Carried Forward:		118	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	19	33	60		

—'d.)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under Four Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	Age in Years																
					1-4		5-14		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75 & Over
					-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Brought Forward:		118	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	19	33	60						
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1					
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-					
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-					
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-					
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1					
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
B42 Congenital Anomalies	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-					
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	M	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
B45 Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			8		
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-					
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
BE48 All Other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-					
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			1		
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:		68	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	11	23	27						
	F	71	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	12	44						

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted To Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Dysentery	8	-	-
Measles	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from DIPHTHERIA and SCARLET FEVER during the past six years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>DIPHTHERIA</u>		<u>SCARLET FEVER</u>	
	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1967	-	-	-	-
1968	-	-	1	-
1969	-	-	-	-
1970	-	-	1	-
1971	-	-	-	-
1972	-	-	-	-

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1972

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>A G E I N Y E A R S</u>							<u>65 & Over</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
		<u>1-2</u>	<u>3-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	5	-	-	1	1	-	8

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>N E W C A S E S</u>				<u>D E A T H S</u>			
<u>Age Period</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS

[illegible]

WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T O F T H E C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H
I N S P E C T O R

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1972

J. R. Masterton, M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector

"Fairfield"
Stanhope
Bishop Auckland
County Durham

Tel: Stanhope 210

To the Chairman and Members of the Weardale Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report covers the period January to December 1972, and I trust indicates satisfactory progress and improvement in the area. The appointment of the additional member of staff in the department helped considerably and permitted a wider range of improvements to be undertaken.

During 1972 advances were achieved particularly in the provision of facilities in food premises, caravan sites, and in refuse collection and disposal.

Housing standards in the area continued to improve, largely due to the Improvement Grant Scheme under which many owners improved dwellings previously considered to be grossly sub-standard. The number of 'back-to-back' dwellings and earth closets were steadily reduced as and when circumstances permitted.

The improvement of Council dwellings commenced during the year, and the scheme at Craig Terrace, Wolsingham, was completed in October. This finished scheme showed the value of improvement such as this, and it is hoped that the other schemes now underway will be completed on schedule.

The construction of sewage works at Hunstanworth was completed during the year and was fully operational by the end of 1972.

Works proposed for the coming year included Environmental Assistance and Reclamation Schemes, and the programme of works should improve a large number of unsightly areas.

It is hoped that, continuing the present rate of progress, most major schemes will be completed prior to amalgamation.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

J. R. MASTERTON

Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the Weardale Rural District is within the area of supply of the Durham County Water Board.

During the year supplies were satisfactorily maintained, and no complaints of shortage arose.

The results of the bacteriological examination of samples taken from village supplies proved satisfactory. Informal samples were also taken from private supplies for examination, particularly in respect of proposed individual housing improvement schemes.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Hunstanworth Scheme: This scheme was completed during the year and is now fully operational.

The sewer extension towards Thornley Village and Helme Park was completed in the early part of the year, and the villages mentioned are now connected to the disposal works at Bradley Bridge.

Each village within the Rural District Council area is now connected to the main drainage system and the Council's sewerage programme is now complete.

Routine maintenance was carried out on various sections throughout the area, and a number of minor connections were made to the main system.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Eighteen property owners took advantage of the schemes under the Public Health Acts and Housing Improvement Grants to convert earth closets. The estimated number of closets in the area at the end of the year were:-

Water Closets	-	3,221
Ash-closets, etc.	-	119
Ash-pit privies	-	6
		<hr/>
		3,346
		<hr/>

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During the year improvements were carried out on the public conveniences at Wolsingham to bring these facilities up to an acceptable standard.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection of household and trade refuse was carried out by two Shelvoke and Drewry (fore and aft tippers) and one Ford Thames Side-loader refuse collection vehicles.

The estimated weight of refuse removed was 4,666 tons, and the vehicles covered a total mileage of 18,600.

Refuse was disposed of at Lanehead Quarry, Stanhope; Brown Houses Quarry, Frosterley; and Harperley Banks Quarry, Wolsingham.

The Quarry at Harperley Banks was nearing the end of its useful life as a tipping area, and it was expected that it would be closed early in 1973.

Due to numerous break-downs of existing refuse vehicles it was decided to provide two new Shelvoke and Drewry Revopak vehicles. Delivery was expected early in 1973.

The bonus incentive scheme implemented this year proved effective.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The Council's full-time rodent operator has been engaged upon the disinfection of dwellings, business premises, farms, refuse tips, sewers and sewage disposal works. Of the properties inspected, treatment was carried out on 115 dwellings, 10 business premises, 12 farms, and 7 other properties (refuse tips, sewage works, etc.).

The cost of treatment on business premises and farms was recovered on the basis of actual costs plus establishment charges.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of shops and food premises were carried out to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations and in connection with registrations for the sale of ice cream.

The list of food premises within the district is as follows:-

Butchers and Slaughterhouses	- 6
Cafes, Hotels and Licensed Premises	- 34
Provision Merchants	- 21
Fruiterers and General	- 40
Fishmongers and Fish Frying	- 4
Bakeries and Bakers Shops	- 3
Canteens and School Kitchens	- 9

There are no poultry packing premises within the district.

MEAT INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Regular inspections of the two registered private slaughterhouses in the district were carried out and these were found to be satisfactory.

During the year the carcasses of 173 cattle, 750 sheep, and 16 pigs were inspected. The quality of animals was generally good, and only small amounts of offal and other minor parts were condemned, totalling approximately 49 lbs.

Following requests by retailers, numerous tinned and frozen foods were condemned, in all instances the food was surrendered voluntarily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND DUST NUISANCES

No formal action was found necessary during the year but a number of smoke nuisances were abated by informal action.

Some considerable time was, however, devoted to nuisances arising from dust emissions. Consultations in conjunction with the Alkali Inspectorate and management of firms involved resulted in modifications to plant which caused some reduction of dust levels, and it is hoped that the rate of improvement will be maintained.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts. Minor defects were remedied in four instances.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector):-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
1. Factories in which sections 1-4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	2	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1. above in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	31	6	-	-
3. Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	33	16	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS (Cont'd.)

Cases in which defects were found (if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of Cases in Which Defects Were Found</u>				<u>Number of Cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To H.M. Insp.</u>	<u>By H.M. Insp.</u>	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-

There are now no registered outworkers in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Further inspections were carried out on premises registered under this Act to ensure compliance with the various aspects of legislation. At the end of the year 9 offices, 30 retail shops, etc., employing 142 persons (54 males and 88 females) were registered.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

Inspections were carried out on all registered caravan and camping sites to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Caravans Act and Public Health Acts.

There are now some 88 sites within the district, varying from sites with individual 'vans to holiday sites with over 180 caravans. The total number of caravan standings in the district is 1,239.

Improvements have been achieved in the standard of facilities in a number of sites and the majority of owners have attempted to bring their sites up to the recommendations. Some long established sites however, whilst not seriously sub-standard, do require some improvement, and owners are being continually pressed to improve lay-out and general standards.

HOUSING.

- (a) Local Authority: No new Council houses were built by the Authority during the year 1972.

The Council now own 659 houses. Schemes for Council houses and bungalows at Rookhope, St. John's Chapel, Stanhope, Frosterley, and Wolsingham which it was hoped would commence in 1972 unfortunately had to be temporarily shelved due to builders' tenders being considerably over the Ministry "yard-stick". Further discussions, however, may resolve this problem.

- (b) Private Dwellings: Four new private dwellings were constructed and occupied during the year, and a further four dwellings were in the course of construction.

Four new dwellings were provided by conversions at Wearhead, Westgate and Stanhope.

- (c) Improvement Grants:

i) DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Applications submitted and approved during the year	..	..	..	103
Applications rejected during the year	..	..	..	1
Completion Grants paid during the year	..	..	..	57
Average grant per house during the year	..	..	..	£1,138.52
Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme, allowing for those grants which have been cancelled	..	..	904	

ii) STANDARD GRANTS

Applications submitted and approved during the year	..	..	..	15
Completion Grants paid during the year	..	..	..	9
Average grant per house during the year	..	..	..	£254.15
Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme, allowing for those grants which have been cancelled	..	..	186	

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE AND RECLAMATION SCHEMES

Some thirty such schemes were programmed for execution in 1972/3. This was basically a large tidying up scheme and consisted of removal of derelict buildings, levelling of spoil heaps and certain quarry areas throughout the Rural Council area. It was hoped that these works would be completed by the middle of 1973, with the exception of East Newlandside Quarry which was a much larger project and could take some longer period to complete.

